

RECORDING OF PROCEEDINGS

Wyoming Board of Agriculture
November 5 and 6, 2007
Casper, Wyoming

Members Present: Jack Corson, President
Gene Hardy, Vice President
Juan Reyes
Jim Mickelson
Joe Thomas
Patrick Zimmerer
Dalin Winters
Jim Bennage
Dave Graham
John Etchepare, Director, WY Dept. of Agriculture
Frank Galey, Dean, UW College of Agriculture

Members Absent: Ryan Lance, Governor Freudenthal's Office

WDA Staff Present: Muff Parker, Recording Secretary
Jason Fearneyhough, Deputy Director

November 5, 2007 Casper

Called to order at 8:10 by Jack Corson.

Approval of Minutes

Jim Mickelson made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 1, 2007 conference call. It was seconded by Gene Hardy. Motion carried.

Redistribution of Returned Water Quality Funding

Ann Trosper from the Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District gave the board some background on their monitoring project on the Shoshone River. She expressed interest in re-applying for the funds they returned, as was the recommendation of WACD. She indicated she would be pretty busy with the Bitter Creek 319 project until the beginning of May.

Joe Thomas said there doesn't seem to be the support necessary for the district to have a mill levy, so they are working on grant funding. Park County has been assessed tax after tax for large improvements and a mill levy wouldn't have the momentum needed to pass. He asked the board to support the opportunity for Powell-Clarks Fork to apply for the funding.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to allow Powell-Clarks Fork Conservation District to submit and application for the \$15,314.97 in 2002 grant funds remaining. Gene Hardy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Conservation District Appointment

Joe Thomas made a motion to approve the appointment of Darrell Walker to the urban position and the appointment of Les Burrough to the at-large positions for the Sublette County Conservation District. Jim Mickelson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Youth Positions

John said as of this morning the Governor has appointed Dalin Winters to the Northwest Quadrant and Patrick Zimmerer to the Southeast Quadrant for 6 year terms. John said he feels the full-time students won't have the necessary time to devote to the board. Frank Knows of a couple of recent graduates in the NE corner & will contact them.

Joint Ag Committee Update

John said he feels the department received support for State Fair's future needs. There will be a couple of bill submitted in the 2008 legislative session. Other than eliminating the sunset clause for the ADMB, they are to clean up some language. John also noted the Governor turned down the funding requests for the Conservation Districts.

State Fair Update

James said the hockey rink, being funded through the City of Douglas, is basically set up and will soon become functional. They are in need of additional power to operate the refrigeration unit, which in turn will make that power available for State Fair operations in the future.

Jack asked if this operation will end up costing State Fair because of the peak power usage. He indicated he did not think so, but couldn't guarantee that.

The board reviewed the State Fair Advisory Board meeting October 9 and 10, 2007.

James said the grandstand events were up last year. He feels the lack of event competition and advertising were the reasons for the increase. Based on initial estimates, there is an increase in gate admission of 2.5%, and increase of 6% for 2007. The final report should be ready in March, 2008. James said State Fair received about \$50,000 in sponsorships. Juan suggested getting a sponsor for gate admissions. James said it is a full-time job building those-relationships and he currently doesn't have staff time to do that. Juan asked if attendance would increase with the elimination of gate admission. James said yes, but wasn't sure if it would increase it by 10%.

He said they are working with the vendors to have their hours and the exhibit hour coincide.

The carnival vendor will be returning in 2008.

There was a \$10,000 increase in ATM use. James said the carnival vendor indicate his revenue was down. James questioned the carnival's decrease in revenue what with the location of the ATM being just north of the carnival.

The CD rom distribution of Premium Book is being discontinued in 2008. It will be posted on the website as well as the normal hard copy distribution.

The July 25 deadline for entries will remain the same for 2008.

They will continue to work on a solution for the bedding issue. They have been looking at several alternatives, but some are going to be cost restrictive.

Washed sand will triple the bedding cost according to Jack. He also indicated from his pasted experience, he feels a wood chip top dressing would be best. Jack said you have to have permits from DEQ, trucking costs, loader time-etc., which would add to the cost of using washed sand. Wood products were the recommendation from the board.

The work on the computer system will continue.

The tagging program is going to be kept in place. State Fair is the administrator of the program. Jack Corson said the declaration of the animal should be identified as a 4-H or FFA animal before State Fair, as well as the ownership declared.

To solve the problem of keeping the boys interested in horse programs, it was suggested to add timed shows which they are currently doing. The problem is going to be finding working cattle. It was suggested State Fair purchase the cattle needed and then sell them afterwards. John said that would require going through the bidding process, etc.

Jack suggested changing the time for the legislator showing to increase exposure. Gene suggested having them do the chicken race or something like that instead of showing swine or cattle. Gene suggested Saturday as a show day because of the number of attendees.

James said the advisory committee had discussed possibly changing the livestock release from Sunday morning to Saturday afternoon to accommodate the attendance of other shows. Jack said he didn't think that was a good idea. One of those reasons, being safety of the exhibitors. If they had shown in Douglas all day and left Saturday afternoon, they would be driving tired and that might increase the chance of an accident. He felt Sunday morning would give them time to rest and finalize everything before driving across the state.

John asked if they could review the minutes at lunch and vote on them as a whole or with maybe a few separate votes.

Wagonhound Ranch requested changes to the points of diversion on the Platte. John said he wrote a letter to the Water Board stating that WDA was not ready to make a decision at this time.

The trailers that are new to State Fair Park may not be ADA accessible. James will follow-up with Mike Pffenhauser to ensure compliance with ADA requirements.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to accept the minutes of the State Fair Advisory Board meeting of October 9 and 10, 2007 excluding the tail docking recommendation. Gene Hardy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jack said he would like to read a letter from Mary Lou Gladson regarding the tail docking policy and allow each member to voice the concerns heard from constituents then allow for a vote following the discussion.

Jack talked about one issue where a particular lamb was disqualified because the x-ray reading varied. When the x-ray was sent to K State for review, they found 1 1/2 to 2 vertebrae. Upon slaughter, it was found the lambs had 4.

Frank Galey talked about the variation in reading x-rays. He also talked about the complications of a short dock as being prolapsed. He feels the issue will always come down to a judgment call. He feels the young people need to be taught of the complications of the short dock and for the betterment of the industry a dock of 3 caudal reserve would be necessary.

Jim Mickelson said in a conversation with Ms. Gladson, that she indicated the x-ray after purchase showed three vertebrae and at showing in county fair, the x-ray done by the same Vet with the same x-ray machine, showed the lamb out of compliance.

Dalin said he feels the tail length should be the same for all exhibitors and he feels the short dock doesn't serve the industry well.

Jack sold club lambs and said its big business. He would have some of hid lambs prolapsed but could fix them. From a teacher's prospective, he said that if the kids do not have a positive experience. Jack feels we need to be good stewards of the land and the animals. Somehow we need to remove the emotional aspect from the experience.

Gene said he too has had letters and conversations with folks. He asked Mary Lou for a solution to which she said to make a ruling to not allow surgical operation, but that would bring it back to club lamb producers to do extreme tail docking. The only purpose of tail docking is cosmetic. According to Mary Lou, Wyoming is the only state doing this and that the other states have all backed down.

John gave background on the tail docking issue. He said it's up to this board and the State Fair Advisory Committee to make the decision. They can decide to either drop the issue or come up with a policy which will be subjective. Rules are great but you have to make them enforceable. Both John & Jason feel the word "full" needs to be a part of whatever the ruling.

Jim Bennage said his mind was made up until he listened to some of the discussion. He's bothered by the animal rights portion. We need to ensure the health of the animal. The other two concerns he has are how to measure it and that the student is the looser.

He wondered if there would be ways to pre qualify the lambs so they don't have to get all the way to State Fair and then be disqualified. John said to pre qualify wouldn't work because the tail could be modified after it leaves the producer. Jim responded by saying he is in favor or some kind of rule, but to make it measurable.

Joe believes we should not be teaching young people that it's okay to surgically alter the lambs in order to win.

Juan feels we need to make sure we ensure traditional agriculture. He said to make and enforce the rule.

Patrick said he showed market lambs for several years and it's difficult to punish the child.

James Goodrich thinks we need to continued being concerned about animal welfare and we need to change the negative image for State fair. He thinks we do need to stand up and make a decision.

James had an idea to put into force a structure of an animal health care committee to look out for all animal welfare issues. He hates to ruin a program because of one issue. We do not check the length on the Champion of Champions where we showcase the lambs from each county. He just wanted to make sure we look at all aspects of State Fair.

Dr. Galey said education is the key. He also feels the whole program is not ruined.

Jim Bennage talked about rewarding those who do it right.

Dalin said those club lamb producers who dock too short should take care of themselves. If their lambs are disqualified, the students should not buy from them again.

John suggested taking the word "full" out of policy. Originally the lamb producers and the industry folks agreed to three vertebra and John added the word full. James thinks the description of one, two or three allows for some variation. The word "full" does clear the up that question.

Jim Mickelson would like to have the name of the person stated in the policy who will read the x-ray. John explained that we don't even know what machine we will be using let alone who will be doing the reading of the x-ray.

Jim Mickelson made a motion to accept the State Fair Advisory Board recommendations including" three full." The motion was seconded by Gene Hardy. Motion carried with Patrick Zimmerer voting no.

James said the verification of the length is best to be done after the shows. Verification by x-ray would include over 200 lambs.

Living Legacy

Muff and Jim Mickelson talked about the need for a formal agreement between State Fair, F.A.I.R., and the Board of Agriculture. They also reviewed the guidelines for the program.

Joe Thomas made a motion to go forward with the Agreement between the three entities. Jim Bennage seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Dalin made a motion to approve the guidelines. Dave Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bio Control

Dr. Tim Collier is an expert on bio-control if the board would like to have further discussion.

4-H Congress

Frank said the 4-H is keeping most of the judging at State Fair. They are possibly looking at having an event of some sort outside of State Fair. James said there are several events, such as the shooting competition that are not really highlighted. Part of the issue of having a Congress came about because of pressure on 4-H to staff the events. This was Jonathans thought to reduce the staffing issue by removing some of the events. Both the Board and Department offered their help to the Extension in whatever ever way they could.

Liaisons

The members reviewed the liaison positions and Jim Bennage took the positions vacated by David Largent on the Beef Council and the Wyoming Business Council. The other positions remained the same.

Meeting Schedule

The Board discussed the meeting schedule for the upcoming year. The meeting scheduled for February 26 and 27, 2008 will be in Cheyenne. The meeting April 14 and 15 will be in Casper, and they will be meeting in Sheridan July 7 and 8, which will include a tour. The conference calls will continue to be the first and third Wednesdays of each month beginning at 8 a.m. It was decided the conference call scheduled during the December Conventions will be at 7 a.m.

Jim made a motion to adjourn for the day. It was seconded by Juan. Motion carried.

November 6, 2007

Seed Law Rules

A motion to extend the emergency rules for the seed law was made by Jim Mickelson. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. Motion carried.

Survey Presentation

Andrea Erickson, Jim Magana and Diana Hulme talked about a 2007 survey regarding voters' attitudes towards natural resources and other related issues. There had been a similar survey in 2004. The summary was handed out to the members and the information is available on the INER website.

Wind Power

Dr. Sadrul Ula presented information on wind power generation. He indicated that transmission of that power is causing false delays. The power companies do not want to mess with wind energy because it's not consistent power.

Subdivisions

Kara Brighton made a presentation on subdivision and water rights. County Commissioners are the authority in the statutes. There is no follow through or penalties in the law. Roger Copal also visited with the board about implications of rural development growth.

Ag Programs

Bob Jensen and Cindy Garretson-Weibel, with the WBC, came to the meeting to discuss the issue of the Agribusiness Division moving back to the Department. Jason Fearneyhough was with the Department when that move was made and said the reason was because of budget. He feels it needs to back at the Department to make it a viable entity. There was on-going discussion from others, as well as members.

Juan Reyes mad a motion to follow-up on Jason's recommendation to bring the Agribusiness Division of the Wyoming Business Council back to the Department including staff and budget. The motion was seconded by Jim Mickelson

Jack asked the WBC to address concerns and return to a future meeting. John will be preparing a presentation with detailed information regarding the logistics of the move, at a future meeting after discussions with Bob Jensen. John is hoping to have that ready for the April meeting.

Jim Bennage made an amendment the motion to have the Department and the Business Council work together to come up with a solution. The motion was seconded by Dalin Winters. Motion carried.

Seed Lab Update

Gil Waibel presented the Board with the appointment recommendations for the SLAG Committee for approval. **Jim Mickelson made a motion to accept the appointments as presented for the SLAG Committee. The motion was seconded by Dave Graham. Gil asked it that a review of the appointments be done every three years. Motion carried.**

Gil talked some about the pricing list and will bring the recommendations from the SLAG Committee to a future meeting for approval.

There being no further business, meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jack Corson, President

Date

Attachment: Attendance sheet
Sublette County Conservation District appointment requests
Minutes of the October 9 and 10, 2007 State Fair Advisory Committee Meeting
Draft Agreement between State Fair, F.A.I.R., and the Board of Agriculture
Draft Guidelines for the Living Legacy Program
Recommended SLAG Committee Members